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PORT OF SUNDERLAND.

1942

ANNUAL REPORT

PRESENTED TO THE

PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

BY

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Medical Officer of Health for the Port and Borough of Sunderland.

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This report is in an abbreviated form compared with those of previous years, in accordance with the wishes of the Ministry of Health as outlined in their Circular No. 1937; permanent arrangements which have been fully presented in previous Annual Reports have been omitted if they have remained unaltered, and certain tables have been either left out altogether or curtailed. Tables dealing with the number of ships arriving and departing are also excluded.

During the year 4 cases of infectious disease, viz., Malaria 1, Mumps 1, Meningococcal Meningitis 1, and Pneumonia 1, were found to exist on vessels entering the Port. No case of infectious disease spread from the Port to the Borough.

During the past year the Master of a foreign going vessel made a request for the vaccination of the Officers and crew on his ship. The request was granted and twenty four members were successfully vaccinated. Two members of the crew were found to have been recently vaccinated and eight members refused vaccination or had otherwise been successfully vaccinated within the past five years. There were eight primary cases which were notified to the local Vaccination Officer.

Work under articles 19-21 of the Port Sanitary (Deratisation of Ships) Regulations 1933, has resulted in 70 Certificates for "Deratisation" or Deratisation "Exemption" being issued, compared with 68 issued last year.

During the year your Port Medical Officer was called out and visited 26 ships at the Docks and River.

Certain duties in connection with Civil Defence are directly concerned with the Port Health Authority, including (1) Provision to be made for the boarding of vessels, whether contaminated by gas or not, immediately on arrival by the Port Medical Officer of Health, if they have on board cases of infectious sickness or of serious illness or accident urgently requiring treatment on shore or if they have come from an infected port; (2) The supervision of disembarkation and disposal of persons who have become casualties by reason of a gas attack on a ship entering or lying in port; (3) An arrangement with the Dock Authority to provide a suitable site on shore for the reception of contaminated food-stuffs, whether in ships or on shore.

Although the Port is not authorised for the admission of Aliens, during the year, owing to special circumstances, refugees from other allied countries, including seamen, have been medically examined at the request of the Immigration Authorities and certified fit to land.

Circular No.2641 (Louse Borne Typhus)

In accordance with the above named circular, medical inspection of crews on arrival from European and African ports has been carried out on board of three vessels.

Grain stored in a warehouse for over two years was moved for milling purposes. Dock labourers who were engaged complained of a skin disease on the face, neck and hands due to living organisms which infected the grain. A good deal of dissatisfaction among the men was caused and representatives demanded an enquiry.

At this time in the Borough I had been making an investigation into an infection of self raising flour, and proprietary articles made from flour, which were found to be heavily infested with Tyroglyphus Farinae. This organism caused the whole mass to appear to be alive, as visible movement in it was perceptible.

On examination of the grain at the warehouse, no living organism was observed but owing to the length of time at which the grain had been stored in a dry condition, the outer husk had become separated, split and, in many instances, left very sharp points in its construction. These sharp angles had caused the irritation on exposed surfaces of the men engaged in moving the grain and this was obviated by covering the skin with grease.

A noteworthy feature of the investigation was the complete satisfaction of the representatives of the men who had seen for themselves, by the aid of a microscope which had been taken to the docks, that the grain contained no living organism.

The work of the Port Health Inspectors has been maintained at a very high standard of efficiency.

I wish to record my thanks for the valuable assistance given by H.M. Collector of Customs and his staff, also the officials of the River Wear Commissioners, Board of Trade Surveyors, Pilots and Shipping Agents who have so willingly co-operated with the Port Health Authority.

A. S. HEBBLETHWAITE.

Port Medical Officer of Health.

Health Office,
Athenaeum Buildings,
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Sunderland.
March, 1943.

WATER SUPPLY

During the past year 8 samples from the water boats were submitted to the Municipal Bacteriologist; the results of the examinations are summarised in the following table:-

1942.

Source	Number of samples	Class 1.	Class 2.	Class 3.	Class 4.
Water Boats	8	7	1	---	---
Hydrants	---	---	---	---	---
Total	8	7	1	---	---

Class 1. A water containing no B.Coli in 100 cc. of water SATISFACTORY.
Class 2. B.Coli test positive in 100 cc. negative in 10 cc.....DOUBTFUL.
Class 3. B.Coli test positive in 10 cc. negative in 1 cc.UNSATISFACTORY.
Class 4. B.Coli test positive in 1 cc. or lessBAD.

ARTICLE 16 (PORT SANITARY REGULATIONS)
1933.

No difficulty has been experienced during the past year in applying the provisions of Article 16, relating to unauthorised persons boarding vessels before they are free from control under the above-mentioned Regulations.

T A B L E C.

Cases of Infectious Sickness landed from Vessels.

Disease	No. of cases during 1942.		No. of vessels concerned.
	Passengers.	Crew.	
Malaria	...	1	1
Meningococcal Meningitis.	...	1	1
Mumps	...	1	1
Pneumonia	...	1	1
Total	4	4

T A B L E D.

Cases of Infectious Sickness occurring on Vessels during the voyage but disposed of prior to arrival.

Disease	No. of cases during 1942.		No. of vessels concerned.
	Passengers	Crew	
Malaria	...	1	1
Total	1	1

OTHER CASES OF SICKNESS, ETC., INVESTIGATED.

In addition to the cases of infectious diseases tabulated, 99 cases of non-infectious sickness, etc., occurring during the voyage or on arrival and during stay in Port, were investigated by the Port Health Inspectors. These included 67 cases of non-infectious sickness, 16 cases of injuries, 15 cases of venereal disease and 1 death from injuries.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

Number of Seamen treated at the V.D. Clinic during 1942.

British	Total	Foreign	Total
Syph. & Soft Chancre	Syph. & Soft Chancre
Soft Chancre & Gonorrhoea	Soft Chancre & Gonorrhoea
Syphilis	37	Syphilis	25
Soft Chancre .	3	Soft Chancre
Syph. & Gono .	1	Syph. & Gono .	3
Gonorrhoea ...	65	Gonorrhoea ...	21
Non-Venereal Disease	20	Non-Venereal Disease	5
Total ...	126	Total ...	54

PARROTS (PROHIBITION OF IMPORT) REGULATIONS.

1930

One parrot and one budgerigar came under observation during the past year, and written undertakings that the birds would not be landed were received from the owners.

DANGEROUS DRUGS (NO. 3) REGULATIONS, 1923.

No application for a Certificate to procure drugs under the provisions of the above-named Regulations was granted during the past year.

MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS.

511 visits have been paid to vessels in connection with the work of rat destruction during the past year, compared with 426 for the corresponding period of 1941. Rat destruction was carried out on board 26 vessels as against 32 vessels in 1941 resulting in the destruction of 396 rats compared with 575 for the preceding year. 1753 rats were destroyed, principally by trapping, at warehouses, wharves and industrial premises on the river and docks, compared with 1500 for 1941, making a total of 2149 for 1942 as compared with 2075 for the previous year.

In addition, 4140 poison baits, compared with 4826 for the preceding year, were laid at various points where trapping was considered futile, the result of which cannot be properly estimated. Two rats have been submitted for bacteriological examination during the past year with negative results.

The total number of visits paid to vessels and premises during 1942, for the purpose of rat destruction was 2255 compared with 1869 for 1941.

RAT PROOFING.

The warehouses at the Docks and on the river continue to be well maintained as regards protection from rats.

It is interesting to note that since the Port of Sunderland was approved by the Ministry of Health in January 1929, for the issue of "Deratisation" and Deratisation "Exemption" Certificates in accordance with the provisions of Article 28 of the International Sanitary Convention of Paris, 1926, 1659 such Certificates have been issued for which fees amounting to the sum of £3378. 6. 6. have been collected.

RATS DESTROYED DURING 1942.

TABLE E.

(1) On Vessels.

Number of rats	396
" examined	2
Infected with Plague	NIL

TABLE F.

(2) In Docks, Quays, Wharves
and Warehouses.

Number of Rats	1753
" examined	NIL
Infected with Plague	NIL

TABLE G.

Measures of Rat Destruction on Vessels from
Plague infected ports arriving
in the Port during the year.

Total Number of such vessels arriving.	Number of such vessels Fumigated by S.O ₂	Number of rats killed.	Number of such vessels Fumigated by H.C.N.	Number of rats killed.	Number of such vessels on which Trapping Poisoning etc were employed.	Number of rats killed.	Number of such vessels on which measures of Rat Destruction were not carried out.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
19	-	-	1	19	4	105	14

* Including Vessels known to have called at Infected Ports during
the Voyage.

TABLE H. *

"Deratisation" Certificates and Deratisation
"Exemption" Certificates issued during
the year.

	No, of ships	No, of Deratisation Certificates issued.				Total	No, of Deratis- ation Ex- emption Certifi- cates issued.	Total Certi- ficates Issued
		After Fumigation with. H.C.N.	Sulphur.	H.C.N, & Sulphur	After trapping poisoning etc.			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Totals..	70	4	2	3	NIL	9	61	70

* Applicable only to those ports approved by the Ministry
of Health for the issue of "Deratisation" Certificates
and Deratisation "Exemption" Certificates in accordance
with the provisions of Article 28 of the International
Sanitary Convention, 1926. (Form Port II)

HYGIENE OF CREWS SPACES.

TABLE 1.

CLASSIFICATION OF NUISANCES.

Nationality of Vessel.	Structural defects through wear and tear.	Dirt, Vermin, and other conditions prejudicial to health.
British...	292	222
Other Nationala	24	16

The above table is a classification of the nuisances and defects found to exist on board the vessels inspected during the past year. Of this number 104 or 7.48% were found to have one or more nuisances or sanitary defects, composed for the most part of dirty or verminous quarters, foul w.c.'s, bilges, peak and ballast tanks, defective port lights, defective stoves and fittings, leaky decks, defective w.c.'s, doors etc. With the exception of 3 vessels which left the Port before the necessary work was completed, all the nuisances and defects were remedied, suggestive that the work is carried out with a minimum of friction.

V1. FOOD INSPECTION.

The Public Health (Imported Foods) Regulations, 1937.
The Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations, 1926.
The Public Health (Preservatives; &c., in Food) Regulations, 1925 to 1940, and the Public Health (Shellfish) Regulations, 1934.

In accordance with the powers contained in these Regulations relating to the inspection of Foods arriving from foreign and home ports, the provisions have been carried out in so far as they concern the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937. With regard to the Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations 1926, and the Public Health (Preservatives etc., in Food) Regulations 1925 to 1940, it has not been found necessary to take any action. Samples are regularly taken by the examining Officer of Customs in compliance with the above named Regulations.

26 visits have been paid to ships, wharves and warehouses on the River and at the Docks for the purpose of inspecting consignments of foodstuffs.

The undermentioned quantities of food-stuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption and were dealt with in the following manner, viz:- 5½ sacks of cereals (ships stores) turned over to the Ministry of Food for salvage. 5 tons of potatoes released for pig food. 2½ tons of potatoes destroyed and 31 lbs of tea destroyed.

SHELL FISH

The Public Health (Shell Fish) Regulations, 1934, came into operation on January 1st, 1935. The Regulations refer to the gathering and selling for human consumption of shell fish which may be infected. There are no layings, private or public, within the jurisdiction of this Authority.
